

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 ACDA-07 /079 W
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R 011244Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SENSTATE WASHDC 4203
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBESSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2636

E.OBM 11652: GDS
TAGS: LE PFOR SS
SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH DORY CHAMOUN

1. CHARGE MET WITH PNL LEADER DORY CHAMOUN ON MAY 30. DURING
THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION, DORY MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

2. CAIRO ACCORD. REFERRING TO RECENT DECLARATION BY KFUR
FRONT THAT THEY CONSIDERED 1969 CAIRO ACCORD AS NULL AND VOID
(BEIRUT 2620), DORY IMPLIED THAT THIS WAS A TACTICAL MOVE
DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE MODERATE LEBANESE MUSLIM GROUPS AND OTHER
ARAB STATES TO SUPPORT THE SARKIS INTERPRETATION OF THIS
DOCUMENT. KFUR FRONT LEADERS HAD JUDGED THAT IF THEY DENOUNCED
THE ACCORD IT MIGHT MAKE IT POLITICALLY POSSIBLE FOR THESE
LEBANESE MSSLIMS TO ENDORSE THE DOCUMENT. DORY CLEARLY
INDICATED THAT DESPITE THE KFUR FRONT ANNOUNCEMENT, THE
CHRISTIANS WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO SEE THE SARKIS
INTERPRETATION IMPLEMENTED.

3. RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.
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IN DISCUSSION OF ISRAELI
INTENTIONS FOLLOWING LIKUD ELECTION VICTORY, DORY
EXPRESSED SOME CONNERN THAT ISRAELIS MIGHT TRY
PREEMHTIVE STRIKE AGAINST PALESTINIANS AND POSSIBLY
SYRIAN TARGETS IN LEBANON IN ORDER TO CREATE
ATMOSPHERE N WHICH GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD BE
IMHOSSIBLE. HE ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBILITY THAT

ISRAELIS MIGHT TRY TO USE AGENT PROVACATEUR TO CREATE AN INCIDENT WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM AN EXCUSE TO COME INTO LEBANON TO "SAVE" THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. DORY SAID THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE HOLDING A VERY TANTILIZING CAR OT IN FRONT OF THE CHRISTIANS, BUT THE CHRISTIANS KNEW THAT IT WAS HOISONED.

4. RELATIONS ZITH SYRIA. REFERRING TO RECENT CHRIST AN-SYRIAN CLASHES IN BILLA-BNHARRE AREA, DORY SAID THAT "SOME PEOPLE" WERE DELIBERATELY TRYING TO CREATE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE SYRIANS AND CHRISTIANS. CHARGE COUNSELED PATIENCE AND SANG FROID IN CHRISTIAN DEALINGS WITH ADF AND SYRIANS TO PREVENT THESE INCIDENTS FROM TURNING INTO MAJOR CONFRONTATION.

5. DAMOUR. DORY SAID CHRISTIANS VERY INTERESTED IN REOCCUPYING DAMOUR. HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE TROUBLE IN THE CHOUF THIS SUMMER AND DAMOUR WAS A STRATEGIC LOCATION IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR CHRISTIANS TO OCCUPY.

6. SOCIAL PROBLEMS. IT WAS BECOMING URGENT, DORY SAID, TO GET THE ECONOMY MOVING SO THAT JOBS WOULD BE CREATED FOR THE UNEMPLOYED FORMER FIGHTERS. THEY WERE BEGINNING TO ASK WHY THEY HAD FOUGHT. SUCH MEN WERE VERY SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE BAATHI PROPAGANDA THAT THE SYRIANS ARE ACTIVELY SPREADING THROUGHOUT LEBANON. CONFIDENTIAL

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7. DORY SAID THAT LEBANON NEEDED TWO THINGS FROM THE USG:

A. SSPPORT FOR LEBANESE ARMY. SYRIAN-ADF PRESENCE IN CHRISTIAN AREAS WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY INTOLEREBLE END SOME WAY MUST BE FOUND TO REMOVE IT. KFUR FRONT UNDERSTOOD THAT LEBANESE ARMY COMMANDING GENERAL KHOURY WAS PLANNING TO CREATE SEHARATE UNITS TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY -- A CHRISTIAN UNIT FOR CHRISTIAN AREAS, A MUSLIM UNIT FOR MUSLIM AREAS AND A MIXED UNIT FOR MIXED AREAS. DORY SAID NECESSARY UNITS FOR CHRISTIAN AREAS ALREADY EXISTED AND NEEDED ONLY TO BE DESIGNATED BY KHOURY IN ORDER TO TAKE OVER RESPONSIBILITY IN SUCH AREAS AS KASRAWAN AND JBAYL. USG SHOULD ENCOURAGE KHOURY TO TAKE THIS STEP. CHARGE NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFINULT FOR KHOURY TO TURN OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY TO LEBANESE FORCES ONLY IN CHRISTIAN AREAS. DORY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS BUT UROED THAT USG USE ITS

INFLUENCE WITH KHOURY AND DEFENSE MINISTER BOUTROS SO THAT THIS PLAN COULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN AS MANY AREAS OF LEBANON

AS POSSIBLE SINCE CONTINUING SYRIAN-ADF PRESENCE IN CHRISTIAN AREAS WAS CAUSING GROWING PROBLEMS.

B. CONTROL OF PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON. DORY URGED THAT USG ENCOURAGE SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD TO SUPPORT SARKIS INTERPRETATION OF CAIRO ACCORD. ONLY IF PALESTINIAN PRESENCE COULD BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL COULD LEBANON BEGIN TO GET BACK TO NORMAL AND FAHD'S SUPPORT FOR SARKIS WAS CRUCIAL IN ACHIEVING THIS.

8. COMMENT. F DORY'S ATTITUDE REFLECTS THAT OF THE KFUJ FRONT, THE CHRISTIAN POSITION IS NOT NEARLY AS EXTREME AS THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS WOULD SUGGEST. DORY WAS FULLY AWARE THAT, ALTHOUGH THE MARONITES
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MAY BE ABLE TO EMBARRASS THE SYRIAN ADF FORCES IN MOUNT LEBANON, THEY WOULD BE HELPLESS IF THE SYRIANS CHOSE TO RETALIATE IN ASHRAFIYAH. SINCE HE BELIEVES FURTHER INCIDENTS ARE INEVITABLE IF THE SYRIAN TROOPS REMAIN IN THE CHRISTIAN HEARTLAND, HE IS ANXIOUS TO FIND A WAY TO MOVE THEM OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

9. DORY SAID HE MAY BE VISITING THE U.S. IN LATE JUNE.
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